

Weather gone wild!

STORMS

Duxbury activated emergency operations center Storm shelters

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As wind, rain, and astronomical high tides ripped through the coast of New England, Duxbury was prepared for the floodwaters, and the downed trees.

Sunday, at 4 p.m., the Duxbury Emergency management agency activated the Emergency Operation Center.

and activated a shelter at the Council on Aging, at 8 p.m. on Sunday, for anyone seeking refuge during the storm. The shelter was publicized to residents along the coast using the Plymouth County Sheriff's Department rapid-dial system. The location of the shelter was at the Council on Aging on Mayflower Street, it was active until noon Monday.

According to Fire Chief and Emergency Management Director Kevin Nord, two people used the shelter. It was staffed by Duxbury CERT and MRC volunteers, and managed by shelter coordinator Brad Wyman.

Nord said that he ramped up the departmental staff going into the storm to help maintain flooding in the areas of Gurnet Road and Powder Point Avenue, as well as handle the numerous calls that came in for downed trees and power lines.

"We handled over 20 calls in 16 hours, there were no injuries, a lot of property damage and downed and damaged telephone poles and electrical," Nord said.

During the high tide, Gurnet Road washed out, making it more of an island. Flooding on King Caesar Road caused moderate damage to one home when the rising waters flooded their first floor. The fire department watched the rising floodwaters during the high tide Sunday night and Monday and, as a precaution, kept an eye on it during Tuesday's high tide as well.

Nord said due to the vigilance of residents no one required evacuation. The early warning gave people the chance to seek alternate shelter early and created less of an impact for the department, he said.

at the height of the Patriots Day storm

Before the flurry of storm-related calls began Sunday evening, they were called to a motor vehicle rollover that occurred around 6 p.m. on Route 3 southbound, just below exit 11. According to Nord, one person had to be transported to the hospital for minor injuries.

"The department was kept busy in the 16-hour period of the storm with calls for medical, power lines arcing and other water related issues," Nord reported. However, no injuries were incurred during the storm of from downed trees or power lines.

As the storm held it ground over the northeast well into the week the astronomical high tides continued to plummet the coast of Duxbury causing the need for the storm shelters to re-open and extra man power to remain in place at the fire department. On Tuesday evening at approximately 11:30 p.m. the fire department responded to a house on Ocean Avenue North, in the Gurnet Road section of town. The surf, and waters flooding the home were heavily penetrating the house.

Upon arrival crews found the roadways impassable due to rising floodwater. The department's forest fire unit was dispatched to navigate the debris-infested roadways and push through the floodwaters.

The fire department rescued four adults and three children and brought them to a shelter set up at the council on aging by the Duxbury Emergency Management Agency.

After surveying the area for further damage all utilities were shut off to the homes that were damaged. The department remained on scene until 3:30 a.m., and the shelter, serving the seven people, was operated until 3:00 a.m.

The Department of Public Works was requested to aid in the removal of debris, rock, and sand, with a front-end loader, for access to the homes by the emergency vehicles.

On Wednesday night the fire department again staged a brush truck in Gurnet Road area to keep an eye on the floodwaters and the homes. Deputy Christopher West said that the tides were not nearly as high as the night before. There was some water, but not the debris and sand caused from the wind on Tuesday night he said.

"We will continue to monitor the tide this afternoon, but it appears to be going down and I don't think there is any need for apparatus tonight," he said. "I don't anticipate any further problems."

are activated



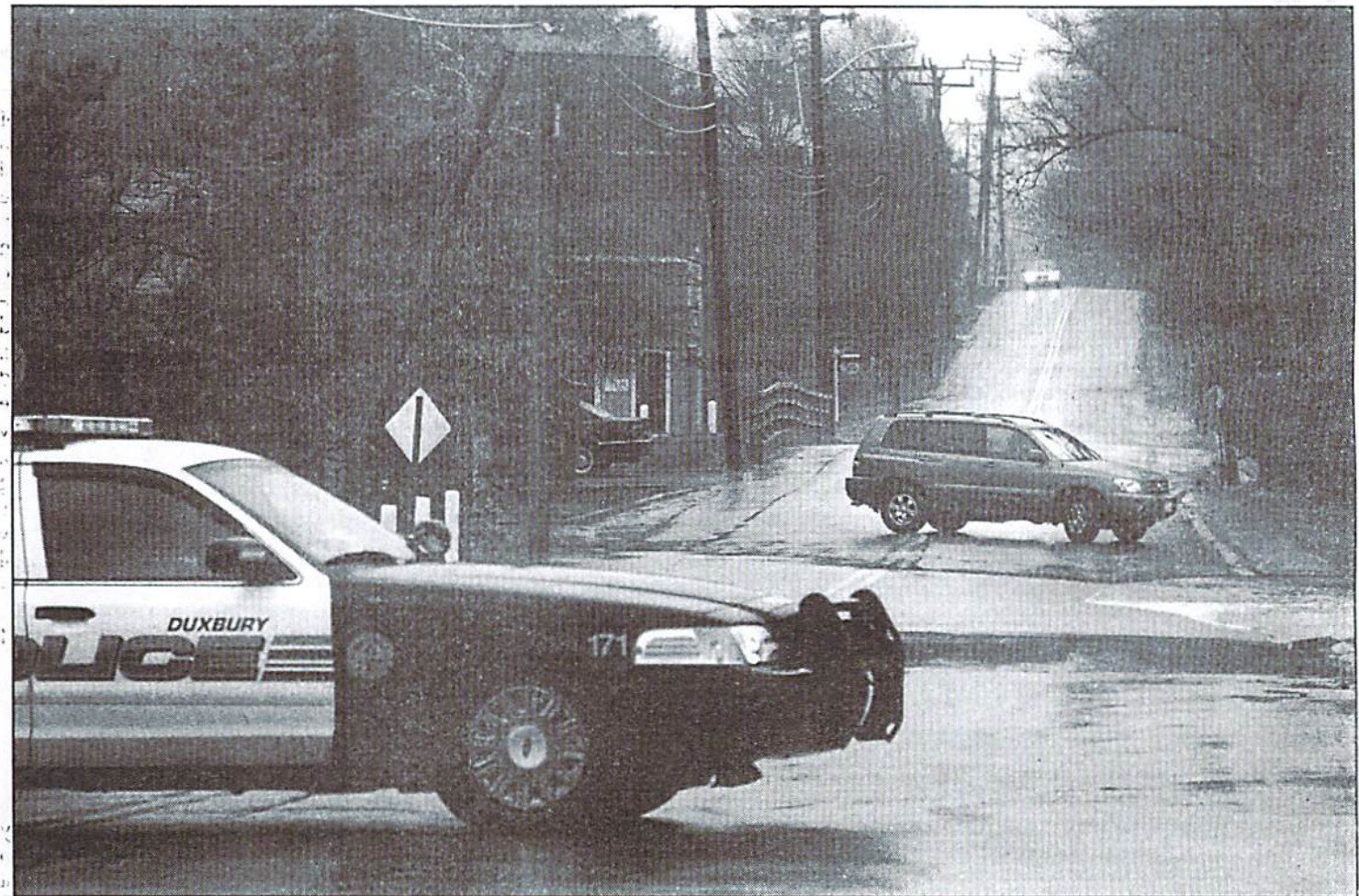
The astronomical high tides nearly overwhelmed Duxbury Beach, Monday.

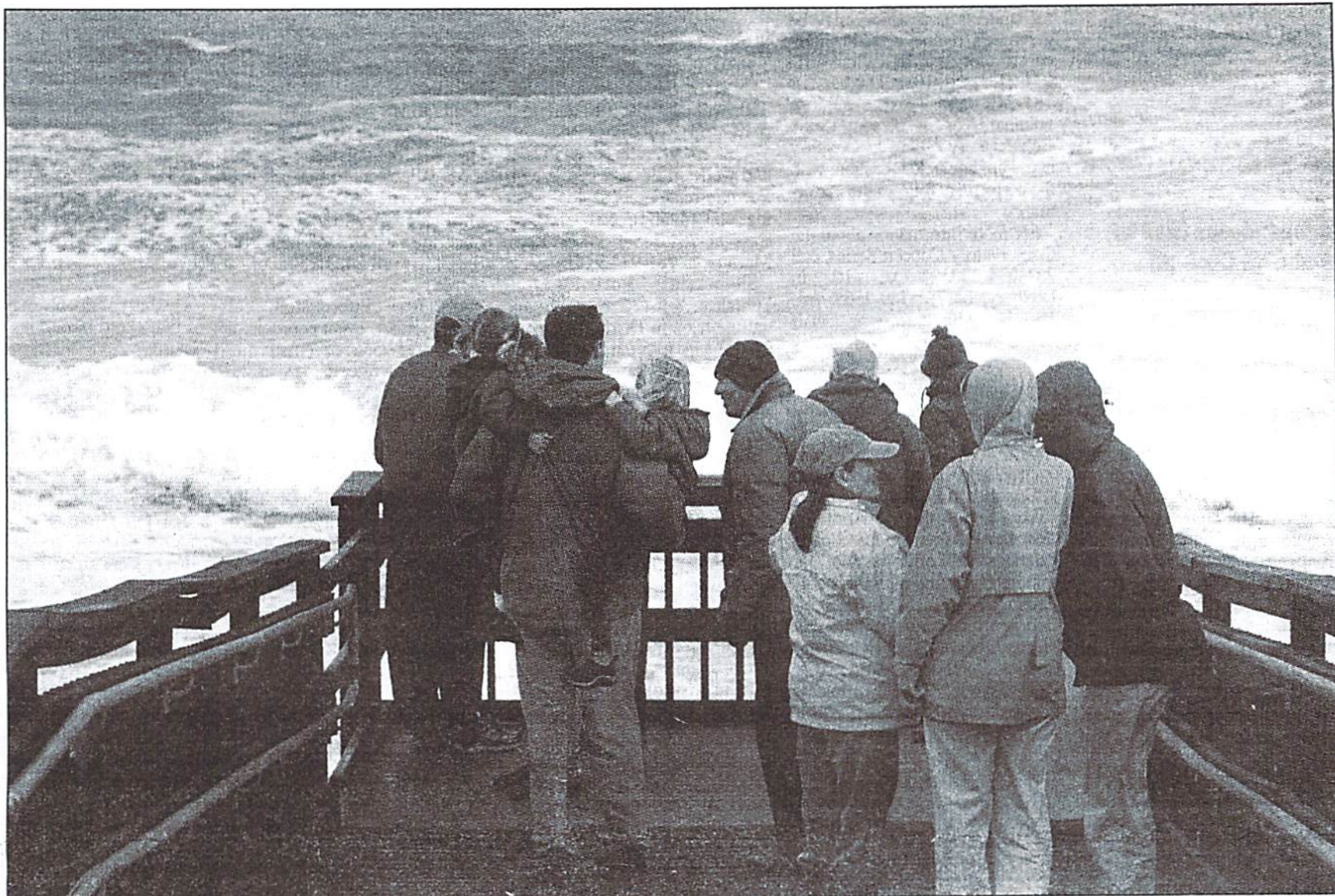
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Staff photos by Chris Bernstein



*Duxbury Police had to briefly turn away traffic from
a stretch along Washington Street near the Blue Fish River.*





STAFF PHOTO/CHRIS BERNSTEIN

Residents check out the waves during Monday's high tide at Duxbury Beach.